



TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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TRA GAS PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION GETS HIGH MARKS FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Regulatory Authority’s Gas Pipeline Safety Division has received a score of 100 on its evaluation by federal authorities.

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) evaluates state agencies yearly to ensure the proper inspection and accountability measures are in place to hold natural gas distributors to the highest possible safety standards. Evaluation scores are used to determine grant eligibility and inspection authority to state agencies. The TRA’s Gas Pipeline Safety Division received its score last week.

Federal pipeline safety laws authorize the PHMSA to fund up to 50 percent of the cost of the personnel, equipment and activities reasonably required for each state agency to carry out a safety program for intrastate pipeline facilities under a certification or agreement with the PMHSA.

“The TRA is proud of the excellence and dedication shown by our inspection teams,” TRA Chairman Tre Hargett said. “These inspections are just another example of how we utilize our resources to continue serving the people of Tennessee.”

Evaluators scored the agency in areas ranging from personnel experience to incident reports to computer inventory and field inspection methods. Weights are applied to various performance factors reflecting program compliance, safety priorities, and national concerns identified by the PMHSA.

“This is very important to our division and to the people of Tennessee because it allows us to give thorough pipeline safety investigations in our state without placing a burden on our state budget,” said Larry Borum, chief of the TRA Gas Pipeline Safety Division.

The PHMSA is the federal entity responsible for the national regulatory program to assure the safe transportation of natural gas, petroleum, and other hazardous materials by pipeline.

The TRA’s mission is to promote the public interest by balancing the interests of utility consumers and providers. For more information on the TRA, visit online at www.state.tn.us/tra.

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